



MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Gary Wallyn, Director
Division of Accreditation, Assistance, and Awards

DATE: November 27, 2007

RE: Approval of Professional Development Grants

Research-based professional development is the key to school improvement. In recognition of the importance of professional development, the General Assembly allocated money for professional development grants for use in the 2007-2008 school year (FY 07). All public schools, including charter schools, accredited non-public schools, and freeway schools are eligible to participate in the professional development grant program (IC 20-20-31 and 511 IAC 6.2-4).

The 2007-2008 application process included an online submittal of both the professional development grant application, and the DOE-RR, which is the annual review and revision the school improvement plan as required by IC 20-31-5-1(a)(2) and 511 IAC 6.2-3-1(a)(2). School and corporation level assurance forms related to the process were also collected and verified. (IC 20-20-31-5) (IC 20-20-31-6) (511 IAC 6.2-3-3(10))

The department review included a review of individual school data, and the alignment of professional development and school improvement goals. Schools were also asked to respond to the following questions:

- When applying the core principles for professional development and the accompanying requirements, how will teachers be supported in the implementation of the strategies/activities/training?
- Describe how instruction will be different after teachers have implemented the strategies/activities/training?
- Describe what students will be doing differently in the classroom as a result of the successful implementation of the strategies/activities/training?

Grant dollars will be distributed in two phases. After Board approval, districts will receive, for each school whose grant application has been approved, a \$3000 flat grant. A per pupil amount based on fall 2007 pupil enrollment will be distributed after school submittal and verification.

Recommendation- We recommend approval of the list of schools to be presented at the December 5th board meeting.